

REMARKS:

Claims 53-70 have been withdrawn to the filing of Divisional Applications.

Claims 38-52 are pending in the application.

The Office restricted the Application to one of the following groups of claims for prosecution on the merits:

Group I, Claims 38-52 drawn to an apparatus and method for handling pipes which uses slips with interengaging elements on the sides of the slips.

Group II, claims 53-62 drawn to a pipe handling apparatus and a method for changing the slips in hat apparatus where the slips have a lug which engages the body on the rear of the slips.

Group III, claims 62-64 drawn to a method for indicating slips have engaged a pipe which uses a hydraulic cylinder and port thereon.

Group IV claims 65 and 66, drawn to a method and apparatus for handling pipes which uses a pilot line to apply hydraulic fluid to a slip actuator.

Group V claims 67-70, drawn to an apparatus for handling pipe and a method for handling flush pipe, which uses a rotor and stator to tilt the elevator with respect to a top drive .

Applicants elect Group I, claims 38-52 drawn to an apparatus and method for handling pipes which uses slips with interengaging elements on the sides of the slips - for prosecution on the merits. Furthermore, as a result of this election, claims 53-70 have been withdrawn to the filing of Divisional Applications.

Appl. No.: 10/578,990
Amdt. Dated January 4, 2010
Reply to Office Action/Restriction mailed December 17, 2009

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely first Action on the merits be forthcoming in this case.

It is believed that there are no fees due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 50-0786. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at (713) 934-4084.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jeffery E. Daly/

Electronically signed by Jeffery E. Daly on January 4, 2010.

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1/04/10 /Jeffery E. Daly/
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